

PIANO PROGRAM GIVEN BY PATRICIA BENKMAN

Patricia Benkman, talented young pianist, appeared in recital at Times Hall last night. Dark hair set off by a white dress, she graced the platform with her attractive presence, and threw herself into the music with commendable self-effacement.

Miss Benkman is gifted with technique to spare and knows how to control it. She played the flying octaves in Liszt's variations on Bach's "Weinen, Klagen-Sorgen, Zagen" with satisfying clarity and endowed the evolving staccato harmonies of Rachmaninoff's Variations on a Theme of Corelli with unexpected interest. She has a tone which sang sweetly in Franck's Prelude, Chorals and Fugue and resounded—with some assistance from the pedal—in the Liszt.

One felt she had a firm grasp of the large aspects of the music at hand, her strong rhythmic sense helping her to project the broad sweep of big sections. But she sometimes slighted the details of nuance which can make a simple melody come to life, playing them straight and nearly without shading. The deficiency, minor in the light of the pianist's assets, is likely one of inexperience, which can be overcome.

The program included the first performance of Anis Fuleihan's "Five Tributes," dedicated to Vaughn Williams, Prokofieff, Debussy and Ravel. The little pieces are deftly composed in varying rhythms, with a hint of stylistic tribute in each to the dedicatee. Miss Benkman gave them sympa-

thetic readings.

C. H.

The New York Times

Published: March 5, 1948

Copyright © The New York Times